

In th Claims:

Please cancel Claims 6-11, 13 and 14 without prejudice.

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously amended): A molded or cast article capable of withstanding high mechanical stress produced from a cellular polyurethane elastomer having a density within the range of from about 0.2 to about 1.1 g/cm³ which comprises a reaction product of:

- Ex 1
- a) from about 65 to about 90 wt.%, based on the total weight of the reaction product, of at least one higher molecular weight polyhydroxyl compound having an average molecular weight of from 500 to 6,000 and a functionality of at least 2;
 - b) from about 10 to about 25 wt.%, based on the total weight of the reaction product, of 2,3,5,6-tetramethyl-1,4-diisocyanatobenzene; and
 - c) from about 0.2 to about 10 wt.%, based on the total weight of the reaction product, of at least one low molecular weight chain-lengthening and/or crosslinking agent having at least two hydroxyl groups and an average molecular weight of from 60 to 800,

with the proviso that the at least one chain-lengthening and/or crosslinking agent may not be water.

Claim 2 (Previously amended): A process for producing the molded or cast article of Claim 1, wherein the higher molecular weight polyhydroxyl compound a) is reacted with the diisocyanate b) to produce an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer which is reacted with the at least one chain-lengthening and/or crosslinking agent and/or the at least one higher molecular weight polyhydroxyl compound.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): The process of Claim 2 in which the chain lengthening and/or crosslinking agent c) is present during production of the prepolymer.

[Claim 4 (Cancelled)

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Claim ~~6~~ (Previously added): The shaped article of Claim 1 in which the cellular polyurethane elastomer is prepared in the presence of at least one catalyst selected from the group consisting of sodium salts and potassium salts of carboxylic acids in which the catalyst(s) is/are present in an amount in the range of from about 0.001 to about 3 wt.%, based on the total weight of reaction product.

[Claims 6-11 (Cancelled)

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Claim ~~12~~ (Previously added): A molded or cast article capable of withstanding high mechanical stress produced from a cellular polyurethane elastomer having a density within the range of from about 0.2 to about 1.1 g/cm³ which comprises the reaction product of:

- Cont 1
- a) from about 65 to about 90 wt.%, based on the total weight of reaction product, of at least one higher molecular weight polyhydroxyl compound having an average molecular weight of from 500 to 6,000 and a functionality of at least 2;
 - b) from about 10 to about 25 wt.%, based on the total weight of reaction product, of at least one 2,3,5,6-tetramethyl-1,4-diisocyanatobenzene; and
 - c) from about 0.2 to about 10 wt.%, based on the total weight of reaction product, of water and/or at least one low molecular weight chain-lengthening and/or crosslinking agent having at least two hydroxyl groups and an average molecular weight of from 60 to 800;

wherein the higher molecular weight polyhydroxyl compound a) is reacted with the diisocyanate b) in the presence of a chain-lengthening and/or crosslinking agent c) to produce an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer.

[Claims 13 and 14 (Cancelled)

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Claim 15 (Previously added): The molded or cast article of Claim 12 in which the cellular polyurethane lastomer is prepared in the presence of at least one catalyst selected from the group consisting of sodium salts and potassium salts of carboxylic acids in which the catalyst(s) is/are present in an amount in the range of from about 0.001 to about 3 wt.%, based on the total weight of reaction product.

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